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JUL 19 1964

Reveal Ike Had Plan To Bar Castro Rise

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By PAUL MARTIN

North American Newspaper Alliance

SAN FRANCISCO, July 18.—Former Ambassador William D. Pawley disclosed today that ex-President Eisenhower approved in 1958 a plan which might have prevented the Castro Communist takeover in Cuba.

The plan would have required the former Cuban leader, Fulgencio Batista, to abdicate in favor of an anti-Batista, anti-Castro, pro-American five-man provisional government agreed to by Mr. Pawley and the State Dept.

The U. S. would have recognized the new temporary government within 24 hours and would have furnished immediately \$10-million worth of arms and ammunition to Cuba to put down the Castro Communist uprising.

RIGHT OF ASYLUM

Batista would have been guaranteed the right of asylum in the U. S. with freedom to come and go, and political amnesty for his followers in Cuba pending free elections to set up a new and permanent democratic form of government on the island.

Mr. Pawley conceived the plan and took it to President Eisenhower, who approved it. The President commissioned Mr. Pawley to fly to Cuba to put the question to Batista approximately one month before Castro came to power.

Batista turned it down because Mr. Pawley was unable to reveal that it was an official proposal sanctioned by President Eisenhower and approved by the State Department.

Mr. Pawley said that at the instructions of former Assistant Secretary of State Roy Rubottom, he had to offer the plan as his own idea.

WOULD COMPLY

Batista told him later, Mr. Pawley said, that if the deposed Cuban leader had been given any indication the proposal came from President Eisenhower, he would have complied with the suggestion to abdicate in favor of a non-Communist

As it turned out, the State Department sent Ambassador Earl E. T. Smith back to Havana a week later with instructions to tell Batista to pack up and leave, creating a power vacuum on the island into which Castro moved with his Communist revolutionaries.

Mr. Pawley, a former ambassador to several Latin American countries, has been attending the Republican National Convention.

VISITS IKE

He organized the "Flying Tigers" in China prior to U.S. entry into World War II. He formerly was a special assistant to the Secretary of State, and attended both the Rio and Bogota Inter-American conferences.

Mr. Pawley, telling the story of his futile mission, said that as an old friend, he frequently visited President Eisenhower at the White House and had called on him during 1958, the crucial year before Castro came to power on Jan. 1, 1959.

Each time Mr. Pawley told the President that Castro was a Communist, but that he was being erroneously portrayed by Herbert Matthews in the New York Times as a "Robin Hood" and an "agrarian reformer."

"Castro claimed this was a Communist revolution," Mr. Pawley said. "I heard him say on the radio that it was Communist. I knew his brother was a Communist."

President Eisenhower "gave every indication of his keen interest in the matter," Mr. Pawley observed, but believed strongly it ought to be handled through the state department.

Mr. Pawley attended several conferences with such persons as Acting Secretary of State Christian A. Herter, Undersec-

retary Douglas Dillon, Assistant Secretary Rubottom, Cuban desk officer William Wieland, CIA director Allen W. Dulles, and others.

NEVER PERSUADE

"I was never able to persuade them that Castro was more dangerous to the interests of the United States than Batista," Mr. Pawley said.

However, the State Department agreed to make Batista an offer to capitulate to a provisional government.

"Mrs. Pawley and I flew to Havana on Dec. 6, 1958," the Ambassador related. "I saw the Foreign Minister on Dec. 7. I went over our plan with him."

"I went to see Batista two days later at 6 P.M. The conference continued for three hours and ten minutes. We went over the plan in great detail."

Mr. Pawley said Batista declined to go along with the plan and asked for more time. As it turned out, Batista fled the country anyway by the end of December.